

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00284 071110Z

12
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 FSE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /021 W
----- 059251

P R 020858Z MAY 74
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 956
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 0284

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFIN, IZ
SUBJECT: CASE OF GEORGE GHANTOUS

REF: STATE 85948; BAGHDAD 256

1. WHILE ATTENDING COURT APRIL 30 AND MAY 2 AS OBSERVER,
ADMIN OFFICER MAIN LEARNED COURT DESIRED CONFIRMATION OF
STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN BELGIAN EMBASSY USINT NOTE 17 OF MARCH
4, 1971. COPY FORWARDED TO DEPT VIA BRUSSELS UNDER
TRANSMITTAL SLIP OF MARCH 4, 1971. PERTINENT PART OF NOTE
FOLLOWS:

2. "AFTER A RECENT AUDIT MADE BY TWO OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED
OFFICERS, EMBASSY IS NOW IN A POSITION TO STATE THAT EMBEZZLE-
MENTS AND FALSE STATEMENTS MADE BY MR. GHANTOUS RESULTED IN
A TOTAL SHORTAGE OF IRAQI DINARS 38,046.357. EMBASSY KINDLY
REQUESTS MFA TO BRING ABOVE TO PROPER AUTHORITIES' ATTENTION."
COPY OF NOTE POUCHED BF/FS.

3. MAIN WAS INFORMED CONFIRMATION SHOULD BE PRESENTED
IN LETTER IN ARABIC SIGNED BY OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE WHO
ALSO MUST STATE CONTENTS ORALLY TO COURT. NO OATH IS
REQUIRED. TEXT SUGGESTED BY BELGIAN EMBASSY: "POSITION OF
THE BELGIAN EMBASSY EGARDING THE CASE OF MR. GEORGE LUTF
GHANTOUS IS PRESENTED IN THE EMBASSY'S DIPLOMATIC NOTE 17
OF MARCH 4, 1971. THE EMBASSY HAS NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD
AT THIS TIME. (SIGNED) P.O. (PRO ORDRE) RAYMOND VAN ROY,
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF BELGIUM, BY RONALD L. MAIN,
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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00284 071110Z

SECON SECRETARY."

4. MFA APPOINTED LAWYER FOR ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS PROVIDED TRANSLATION GRATIS. HE ADVISED MAIN THAT GHANTOUS HAS CONFESSED EMBEZZLEMENT AND NO FURTHER PROOF REQUIRED TO PROSECUTE FOR SENTENCING BY IRAQI PUBLIC PROSECUTOR.

5. WE ARE CONSULTING WITH BELGIAN CHARGE. NEXT COURT APPOINTMENT IS MAY 7. IF DEPT WISHES TO MEET COURT REQUEST BY CONFIRMING NOTE OF MARCH 4, 1971, SHOULD IT BE DONE BY BELGIAN EMBASSY OR U.S. INTERESTS SECTION OF THE BELGIAN EMBASSY? LOWRIE

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